

Att: Lisa A. Ferguson, D.V.M.

Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries
Danish Veterinary and Food Administration



Copenhagen, 16 March 2001

Memo
Danish precautions
foot-and-mouth disease

The status of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in Denmark is unchanged: since 1983 no outbreaks of FMD has been reported in Danish livestock.

The entire Danish veterinary control and surveillance system is continuously on the alert, and all precautions will be maintained until the FMD-situation in other EU member states is normalized. Veterinary authorities, other relevant authorities, industry and farmers' organisations are in close contact, and information is communicated smoothly.

This memorandum describes the measures implemented in Denmark in respect of the reported outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in France and the United Kingdom. The memorandum also describes the functioning of the veterinary precautionary measures.

Measures implemented in Denmark

The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration has taken all necessary precautionary measures to prevent the transfer of FMD to Denmark. Veterinarians are obliged immediately to report any signs of disease to the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration.

The precautionary measures are:

Practising veterinarians

- All veterinarians have received instructions on mandatory actions in case of suspected outbreak FMD on a Danish farm.

Import to Denmark of live cloven-hoofed animals suspended

- Any import of live cloven-hoofed animals from France and the United Kingdom is prohibited.
- All market operators are recommended to suspend all import to Denmark of live cloven-hoofed animals, semen and embryos. Since 11 February 2001 **no live cloven-hoofed animals** have been imported to Denmark from other countries.
- The Veterinary and Food Administration shall in advance authorize any import of live cloven-hoofed animals to Denmark. Clearly, any import that constitutes a risk of spreading FMD will not be allowed.
- Vehicles, which return to Denmark after carrying feed or live animals, are disinfected at the Danish border.

Movement of live cloven-hoofed animals is restricted

- Movement of live cloven-hoofed animals within Denmark is restricted and kept under close supervision by the veterinary authorities. All vehicles are disinfected, and transports of live animals must go directly from the farm to the slaughterhouse. Transports to slaughterhouses may collect pigs from two farms on the condition that two separate units, i.e. a main compartment and a trailer are loaded separately.
- Holding of markets with live cloven-hoofed animals is prohibited.

Contacts with farms are kept at a minimum

- Farmers holding cloven-hoofed animals are recommended to keep visits to the farm at an absolute minimum. Visits by veterinarians follow specific guidelines. Change of clothes, washing, and disinfection is in any case required.
- A 48-hours quarantine is recommended to all persons who have been in touch with live cloven-hoofed animals. The same requirement applies to visitors from foreign countries before they are allowed contact with Danish herds.
- Farmers should keep logbooks on all visitors to farms such as veterinarians, inseminators, feedstuff suppliers, counsellors or guests.

Restrictions on feed to cloven-hoofed animals

- Feeding with waste food is prohibited. No import of feed from UK is allowed and lots imported later than 1 February must undergo heat treatment, otherwise feed will be de-

structed.

- Animal food products and kitchen refuse from means of transport arriving from the United Kingdom are destroyed.

Other precautionary measures

- Hygiene rules are tightened with respect to the handling of meat waste and meat products.
- All private imports of meat and milk products for domestic use are prohibited.
- Farmers are recommended to wash and disinfect hired machines used for spreading of manure and sludge before returning the machine.

Function of the protective FMD measures

The course of events up to now in Denmark has been good and effective, including the fact that all parties have been willing to co-operate and have been working hard. There is a general satisfaction with the co-operation between the agricultural industry and the authorities.

The veterinary preparedness has been strengthened since 21 February 2001 in relation to the following main areas:

- Information – external and internal
- Contact clarification and reduction – external and internal
- Other infection-preventing measures

Most of the precautions introduced will be of an interim duration, depending upon developments in the epidemiological situation in other EU member states.

The following points are currently being processed for purposes of updating the preparedness:

- The list of recommended disinfection agents should be enlarged in order to have sufficient supplies of disinfection agents in an acute situation.
- It is considered to monitor Danish sheep, for example by taking blood samples upon slaughtering of sheep and lambs up to Easter.
- Attempts are made to make a wind-spreading model operational for Denmark in order to establish a warning system for Danish herds.

Provisional estimate of FMD risk to Denmark

The following provides an overview of the potential sources of spreading FMD infection to Denmark:

1. Contacts with the United Kingdom and France
 - a. Direct contacts (import of animals/products):
 - i. Susceptible species have not been imported from the UK to Denmark in 2001. Latest shipment of susceptible species from France was 19 January 2001.
 - ii. The import of food and food products from the UK during the period of 1 –23 February 2001 has been accounted for. It is the perception that it would in particular be cuts with bones that would be a potential problem, since the normal maturation and pH-lowering is expected to reduce the risk of infection in the meat itself. It appears however that no cuts with bones have been imported.
 - iii. The import of food and food products from the departments of Mayenne and Orne in France will be accounted for.
 - b. Indirect contacts (people, remains of foodstuffs)
 - i. The measures taken to counter such transmission of the infection are assessed to be sufficient (random sample checks of private individuals at the borders, requirements for the destruction of airport waste)
2. Contacts with other potentially infected EU member states
 - a. Direct (import of animals/products):
 - i. There have been no imports of susceptible species since 11 February 2001.
 - ii. Data has not been gathered for imported products of animal origin. As of today now no infected animals has been ascertained in other European countries.
 - b. Indirect (people, remains of foodstuffs)
 - i. The measures taken to counter such transmission of the infection are assessed to be sufficient (random sample checks of private individuals at the borders, requirements for the destruction of airport waste).
3. Contacts with potentially infected countries outside the EU
 - a. Direct (import of animals/products):
 - i. There have been no imports of susceptible species in 2001 and hardly any products either from the countries concerned.
 - b. Indirect (people, remains of foodstuffs).
 - i. The measures taken to counter such transmission of the infection are assessed to be sufficient (random sample checks of private individuals at the borders,

requirements for the destruction of airport waste).

4. Limitation of a potential risk of infection internally within Denmark:

- a. The limitations introduced on the sale and transport of susceptible species is very radical. Any lifting of limitations will be carried out in such a manner that there is no compromise of the professional veterinary assessment of the risk of spreading.

5. Airborne infection

- a. From the UK: the distance across the North Sea is 5-600 km. There has never been a documented airborne transmission of F&M disease of more than 2-300 km.
- b. From France: the distance to France is 6-700 km. There has never been a documented airborne transmission of FMD disease of more than 2-300 km.
- c. Simulation models for airborne transmission of FMD virus show that the concentration of the virus over Danish territory has been significantly under the critical value.
- d. From other potentially infected European countries: Since airborne infection may occur across shorter distances, risk of FMD rises in case disease spreads to Germany.

6. Other sources:

- a. Migratory birds cannot in practice be differentiated from airborne transmission
- b. Vaccine production with discharge – not relevant in Denmark.

Conclusion

The current FMD situation for Denmark is under control, and the forecast is reasonably optimistic. The risk of direct spreading from UK and France to Denmark is limited as:

- No direct infectious contact can be ascertained.
- Comprehensive measures to limit infection have been taken as well in France and the UK as in Denmark. These measures have been in effect for a certain time.
- Airborne infection is not considered to constitute a serious risk. However, airborne infection cannot be completely excluded, and the infection may be transmitted if certain circumstances arise.

The preparedness in Denmark and the EU is functioning well and is now up at a high level as regards prevention.

Preben Willeberg
Chief Veterinary Officer

**Course of development
in the Danish situation
since the middle of February 2001**

Level of protective FMD measures	Risk of exposure to FMD in Denmark							
		Extremely	Very low	Low	Moderate	High	Very high	Extremely
	Extremely high							
	Very high							
	High			1-16/3				
	Neutral			21-28/2				
	Low	Before 15/2	15-20/2					
	Very low							
	Extremely low							

Att: Lisa A Ferguson, D.V.M

The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration
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**Measures in Denmark
in connection with the outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease
in the United Kingdom and France**

Chronological order

Revised and updated 16 March 2001.

20 February 2001

- Danish Veterinary and Food Administration receives notification from the Commission on two outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in the UK.

21 February 2001

- Press release on the outbreak of FMD in the UK issued.
- All the Veterinary and Food Control Regions are requested to provide information on the import to Denmark of meat from cloven-hoofed animals and products thereof originating in the UK since 1 February 2001, as well as the import into Denmark in 2001 of living hoofed animals as well as sperm and embryos from the UK.
- The regional Chief Veterinarians send instructions on precautionary measures to all registered importers and exporters of cloven-hoofed animals from the United Kingdom.

23 February 2001

- The regional Chief Veterinarians procure additional information concerning the import of non-food products from the UK.
- Importers of animal foodstuffs (excepting fish) receive guidelines on the import of animal foodstuffs from certain EU countries with restrictions.

26 February 2001

- At the request of the British veterinary authorities, the regional Chief Veterinarians notify exporters of living cloven-hoofed animals to the United Kingdom that export certificates cannot at present be issued for such animals.
- Information communicated to Veterinary and Food Control Regions concerning increased awareness on the handling of waste food and the cleaning of vehicles used for the transport of living and dead animals.

27 February 2001

- Veterinary and Food Control Regions, destruction plant, markets and collection points are instructed concerning the cleaning and disinfection of means of transport, including an order on the separation of cleaned and uncleaned vehicles.
- The regional Chief Veterinary Officers procure information concerning the import of sheep from the EU to Denmark since 1 January 2001.
- Information is sent out from the Veterinary Institute of Virusresearch on the collection and sending of material suspected of foot-and-mouth disease.

28 February 2001

- Regional Chief Veterinary Officers are informed on measures concerning fresh meat with bones from cloven-hoofed animals, which have been imported from the UK since 1 February 2001.
- Information is sent to the practising veterinarians.
- Information is sent to slaughterhouses concerning the washing and disinfection of transport vehicles.

1 March 2001

- Press release on the tightened precautionary measures for avoiding foot-and-mouth disease.
- Orientation of hunt/travel bureaus that at present hunting trophies and meat from killed wild game cannot be imported for personal use from the United Kingdom.
- Importers of live cloven-hoofed animals from the European Union are requested to cease the import of live cloven-hoofed animals to Denmark until further notice.
- Issue of Order No. 126 of 1 March 2001 on the disposal of animal foodstuffs and kitchen waste from means of transport, which arrive from the United Kingdom.

2 March 2001

- Exemption for the holding of markets for slaughter.
- Procedure for washing and cleaning of means of transport, which have transported living animals to slaughterhouses, is tightened.

3 March 2001

- Meeting with the meat and dairy industries and farmer organizations.
- Suspected outbreak of FMD in a cow.
- Oriented the Commission on the suspected case of FMD based upon clinical symptoms.

- Press release on a suspected case of FMD and the initial investigation.

4 March 2001

- The European Commission is informed on the initial investigation.
- The Veterinary and Food Control Regions are instructed on the slaughtering of sheep without ear markers.
- Measures on the disposal of food/kitchen refuse for retail chains, industry organizations, and the national organization of municipalities.
- The Veterinary and Food Control Regions are instructed only to carry out unnecessary urgent visits to the herds.
- Veterinary and Food Control Regions are instructed to impress upon the slaughterhouses that the rules on the cleaning and disinfection of pallets must be adhered to.
- Home page updated.
- Recommendation to travel bureaus and airlines on the private import of foodstuffs.
- Recommendation to agricultural organizations on the activity of visitors at the farms.
- Contacts with retailers, the Consumer Council of Denmark, the Consumer Information Council, and the Agricultural Council.
- Recommendation to the Veterinary and Food Control Regions on how to communicate in situations of suspected cases (co-operation between regions).
- National police pays special attention to vehicles crossing the border.
- Press release on the day's activities with the joint recommendations attached.

5 March 2001

- Order on the cleaning and disinfection of means of transport for hoofed animals.
- The regional Chief Veterinary Officers are informed of the export of animals for slaughter.
- Veterinary Institute of Virusresearch gives notification that the suspect cow from Lemvig does not have foot-and-mouth disease.
- Press release informing that the suspect cow from Lemvig does not have foot-and-mouth disease.

6 March 2001

- Order No. 142 of 5 March 2001 on the ban on the private import of certain animal food-stuffs.
- Task force meeting between relevant authorities and industries.
- Recommendation to the police concerning contact with cloven-hoofed animals.
- Order of 6 March 2001 on the cleaning and disinfection of means of transport for hoofed animals.

7 March 2001

- Decision by the European Commission on the changing of decision 2001/172/EU on protective measures concerning FMD in the UK.
- Order of 7 March 2001 on the ban on the holding of markets and the gathering of animals.
- Meeting with the national police on the role of the police in connection with contagious domesticated animal diseases.
- Press release on the Order on the ban on the holding of markets and the gathering of animals.
- Ministry and industries are informed on the consequences of the Commission's decision.

8 March 2001

- Meeting with regional Chief Veterinarians, Veterinary Institute of Virusresearch and industries on the management of the exceptions to the transport ban on living cloven-hoofed animals as well as problems in a possible outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease.
- Guidelines concerning Order No. 149 on the ban on the holding of markets and the gathering of animals are issued.

9 March

- Press release on the suspicion of FMD in the Esbjerg Veterinary and Food Control Region. Provisional result is negative.
- Meeting with industries, the Ministry, Veterinary Institute of Virusresearch and Danish Meteorological on the current status, the preparedness and the continued precautions.

10 March 2001

- Transports to slaughterhouses may collect pigs from two farms on the condition that two separate units, i.e. a main compartment and a trailer are loaded separately.

12 March 2001

- Press release confirming that the suspect cow in the Esbjerg Veterinary and Food Control Region does not have foot-and-mouth disease.

13 March 2001

- Homepage updated.
- Meeting in the Standing Veterinary Committee – European Commission
- Commission notifies the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration on outbreak of FMD in France

14 March 2001

- Decision 2001/208 by the European Commission on the outbreak of FMD in France.
- Decision by the European Commission to change Decision 2001/172/EU on certain measures in connection to FMD in the United Kingdom.
- Meeting with industries.
- The Veterinary and Food Control Regions report on the import in 2001 of live cloven-hoofed animals, semen and embryos from other EU Member states. No import since 11 February 2001.